

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-14 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /075 W

-----126189 221723Z /40

R 221600Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5006

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS BANJUL 1794

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM GA

SUBJ: GOTG HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION

REF: STATE 302638

1. CHARGE SENT COPY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK STATEMENT TO PRESIDENT JAWARA, WHOSE PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IS PROFOUND. EMBASSY TRANSMITS BELOW TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY GAMBIA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON DEC 10, HUMAN RIGHTS DAY.

2. QUOTE

PRESS RELEASE ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, 1977

AS IT IS WELL KNOWN, AMONGST THE HIGHEST PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION IS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS FOR ALL WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO RACE, SEX, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION. THIS IS ENSHRINED IN THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IN PURSUANCE OF THIS LOFTY AIM, THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS ADOPTED ON THE 10TH OF DECEMBER 1948 BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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TODAY IS THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THAT DECLARATION. ON THE OCCASION THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA RENEWS AND REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE DECLARATION AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. AT HOME WE HAVE MADE AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE IT OUR HIGHEST GOAL TO ACHIEVE PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY FOR THE NATION COLLECTIVELY AND FOR EVERY INDIVIDUAL. ONE OF OUR

HIGHEST TENETS IS OUR UNRESERVED COMMITMENT TO THE INVIOABILITY OF THE DIGNITY, SELF RESPECT, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND OF ASSOCIATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL. THIS IS MATCHED BY OUR UNRELENTING EFFORTS TO SECURE THE MAXIMUM MATERIAL BENEFITS OF GOOD HEALTH, GOOD SHELTER AND AN ADEQUATE AND BALANCED DIET FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL WE HAVE AND SHALL CONTINUE TO WAGE AN UNRELENTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST ALL INJUSTICES AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN DIGNITY. IT IS WITH THE DEEPEST REMORSE THAT WE THEREFORE HAVE TO DEPLORE AND DENOUNCE THE OPPROBRIOUS APARTHEID SYSTEM AND ITS BRUTAL RACIST CONSEQUENCES IN THE SO CALLED REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. THIS UNGODLY SOCIAL SET UP AND POLITICAL PRACTICE HAS BEEN DIRECTLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF HUMAN BEINGS FROM SHARPVILLE TO SOWETO. YOUNG CHILDREN AND PEOPLE IN THE PRIME OF THEIR LIFE ARE MURDERED, MAIMED AND INCARCERATED FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT THEY HAVE DARED TO DEMAND THEIR GOD GIVEN RIGHT TO DIGNITY AND EQUALITY.

THE LATEST AND MOST NOTABLE VICTIM MURDERED UNDER THE APARTHEID SYSTEM OF SOUTH AFRICA IS THE YOUNG BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS LEADER STEVE BIKO. HE WAS ONLY THIRTY YEARS OLD BUT HIS CAHRISMA AND THE JUSTNESS OF HIS COURSE HAD GIVEN HIM AN INENATIONA IMAGE. HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS BELIEF IN NON VIOLENCE. BUT ALAS, HIS OPPONENTS ARE RENOWN FOR THEIR VIOLENCE TOWARDS THE HUMAN PERSON AND DIGNITY. THIS TO SUCH AN EXTENT INDEED THAT THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO EXPORT IT BEYOND THEIR OWN BOUNDARIES.

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FOR IT CANNOT BE DOUBTED THAT THE VORSTER REGIME SEEKS TO IMPLANT APARTHEID IN NAMIBIA. NOR CAN IT BE QUESTIONED THAT VORSTER IS THE GODFATHER OF IAN SMITH AND HIS GUARDIAN AGNEL.

IT IS THE SINCERE HOPE AND PRAY OF THIS GOVERNMENT THAT ALL CIVILISED NATIONS, BIG AND SMALL, WILL CONCERT NOT ONLY THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE INJUSTICE NOW REIGNING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BUT ALSO THEIR EFFORTS TO UPROOT THE PERPETRATORS AND THE REGIMES BEHIND THE INJUSTICE, AND THAT VERY SOON HUMANITY WILL BE ABLE TO ERASE THIS SAD BLOT FROM ITS HISTORY. IT IS EQUALLY OUR MOST ARDENT CALL THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, DEVELOPED, AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALIKE, SHOULD COME TOGETHER AND RID THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD OF THE HAUNTING PROBLEMS OF HUNGER, DISEASE, POVERTY AND IGNORANCE. THE ERADICATION OF THESE EVILS IS CERTAINLY WITHIN THE MEANS OF OUR TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD. AND THERE CAN BE NOTHING THAT OUR PEOPLES HAVE MORE RIGHT TO.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,  
BANJUL,  
THE GAMBIA.

10TH DECEMBER, 1977.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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